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Door County Public Health Department News Release

It is Not Too Late to Receive H1N1 Vaccine for This Flu Season

Individuals still have time to take advantage of the free-of-charge H1N1 vaccine at walk-in clinics sponsored by the Door County Public Health Department.

Rhonda Kolberg, Door County Health Officer, stated: “According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), vaccination against the 2009 H1N1 virus should continue throughout the influenza season, into December, January, and beyond. This is because the timing and duration of flu activity can vary. Flu seasons can last as late as April or May. It’s possible that there may be waves of 2009 H1N1 activity during the 2009-2010 flu season that hit communities more than once over the course of the season.”

Two H1N1 vaccine clinics for the general public are scheduled. These vaccines are given free-of-charge. There is no charge for the vaccine or for administration of the vaccine.

A clinic is scheduled for **Thursday, January 28, 2010, from 1 PM -- 4 PM**, at the **Door County Government Center, 1st Floor, Peninsula Room**. Persons should enter through the 4th Avenue entrance across from the library. This clinic is a **walk-in clinic, with no appointments taken**.

A clinic is scheduled for **Thursday, February 4, 2010, from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM**, at the **Washington Island Community Center**. This clinic is a **walk-in clinic, with no appointments taken**.

-MORE-

Frequently asked questions and answers:

- ***What if you have already been sick with what you think was the H1N1 virus. Should you still get the vaccine?***

Yes, even if you have already been sick, unless you have had a case of H1N1 confirmed by a laboratory test, the CDC recommends that you go ahead and get the vaccine. The symptoms of influenza (flu-like illnesses) are similar to those caused by many other viruses.

- ***Should people 65 years of age and older get the H1N1 vaccine?***

Yes. While people 65 and older were not included in the initial groups recommended to get the earliest doses of vaccine, supplies of the vaccine have increased so that all people wishing to protect themselves from the H1N1 virus can and should get the vaccine. Those who have been patiently waiting to receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, including people 65 years and older, are now encouraged to get vaccinated. There have been severe infections and deaths from 2009 H1N1 in every age group, including people 65 and older. Some outbreaks among older people living in long-term care facilities also have been reported.

Influenza (flu) can be a very serious disease with many complications. Symptoms of influenza include fever, muscle aches, sore throat, and a non-productive cough. More serious illness can occur if pneumonia follows.

For more information on the H1N1 virus, check <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/> or www.co.door.wi.gov or call 2-1-1 for questions about H1N1 influenza.